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MEMORANDUM TO: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Personnel Problems in the Event of a National Mobilization

1. In view of the current international situation, I called together representatives of the following Offices and Staffs on 5 July 1950 to discuss personnel problems which would be faced by CIA in the event of a national mobilization should be ordered by the President: OGC, OCO, IASO, SCS, Personnel Director, Management, and General Counsel.

2. There were four primary problems:

- a. Status of the Agency (civilian or military).
- b. Status of assigned overt personnel.
- c. Status of assigned covert personnel.

d. Source and status of personnel not now authorized who will be required to augment certain Agency activities.

3. a. The assembled representatives were informed that the intent of current policy is that CIA retain a civilian status in case of national emergency or war and that active uniformed personnel will be required only for specific positions which operationally require military rank. The question was raised as to whether OGC would remain under CIA jurisdiction or be removed to the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense. I stated that this question had been under continuing study for some time, that no actual decision has been reached, and that pending such decision OGC will be governed by the general policy determinations applicable to the whole Agency.

b. Our overt civilian personnel are well covered by existing agreements with both the Department of Defense and the head of the Selective Service Agency, which provide that no individual on duty as a civilian with CIA will be called either to active duty from an inactive reserve status or inducted into active service by selective service machinery without the prior concurrence of the Director of Central Intelligence. We are in the process of re-verifying these agreements and rechecking the mobilization assignments to CIA of our overt civilian personnel who hold military reserve status.

c. No provision has been made to insure retention by CIA of any of its covert personnel. Security considerations have been such that it has been considered undesirable to attempt to provide a solution to this problem until faced with a definite possible necessity.

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d. Our Agency policy has been continually not to attempt to establish either a civilian or military reserve group for use only in the event of a national emergency requiring expansion of CIA facilities. The various problems inherent in attempting to maintain such a group have been such as to make it unfeasible as a long range proposition. However, now that there is a possibility that we may be faced with national mobilization, the problem is more practical and more capable of reasonable solution.

h. It is generally agreed by those present at the conference that the following steps, if carried to a favorable conclusion, would solve the problem discussed, with the least security risk possible under the circumstances.

a. Standby legislation should be sought in collaboration with the National Security Resources Board to provide:

(1) For indefinite deferment from draft action of all CIA employees while retaining such employment.

(2) Provision that CIA employees be granted any veterans' preference rights which may be authorized by the Congress for active uniformed personnel.

b. Arrangements should be made with Selective Service officials to authorize one or more registration boards to be established within CIA to handle the registration of all CIA employees and empowered to grant indefinite deferment to them while actually employed by the Agency. This arrangement should include authority to register and defer any individuals not provided for in current personnel authorizations and not having military reserve status who may be selected, security cleared, and designated for assignment to CIA in the event of essential organization.

c. Agreement should be made with the Office of the Secretary of Defense that immediately upon either announcement of national mobilization or prior information that such announcement is to be made, CIA will furnish to a designated official in the Office of the Secretary of Defense a list of covert employees of CIA who have military reserve status and the location of such employees. Upon the receipt of this list, the Secretary of Defense will direct in a manner as secure as possible that individuals listed will not be called to active military service without the prior request of the Director of Central Intelligence. Such agreement should also be extended to include individuals not provided for in current personnel authorizations with military reserve status who have been selected, security cleared, and designated for assignment to CIA in the event of essential organization.

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d. A further agreement should be made with the Office of the Secretary of Defense providing that when active military status is essential to a given operational situation, CIA may request the appropriate armed service to either call to active duty, or consider directly, specified individuals upon the recommendation of the Director of Central Intelligence.

5. Your approval of the above policy approach is requested prior to taking implementing action.

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Acting Executive

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